C.70.a.8.

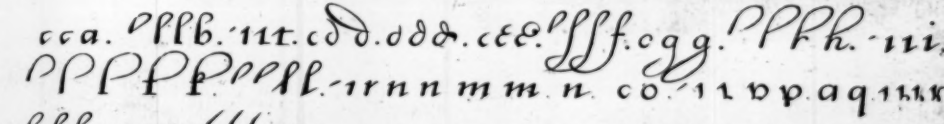
The London Writing Master
or
The Scholars Guid

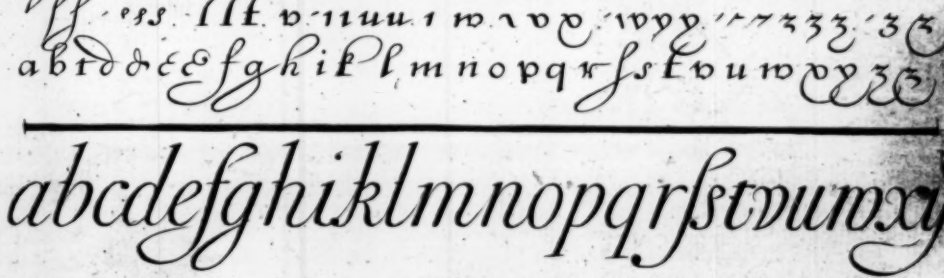
Teaching all the Vsuall Hands now practised in England.

Invented, Written, and Engraven
By Edward Cocker.

Are to be sold by Robert Pask at ye Stationers Armes & Ink-Bottle under ye north side of ye Royall Exchange
Price 6 pence

The Breakes of mixt Secretary Letters.





Aabtdd efghikl mnopqrsstvuwxyz

As an ingenious Countenance is a silent commendation, so a curious piece of Writing is a speaking picture.

By frequent use experience gaines her growth,
But knowledge flyes from lazynes & sloath

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V W X Y Z

Complementall Insinuations wth cunning Equivocations, and knavish reservations, are to the wise abominations.

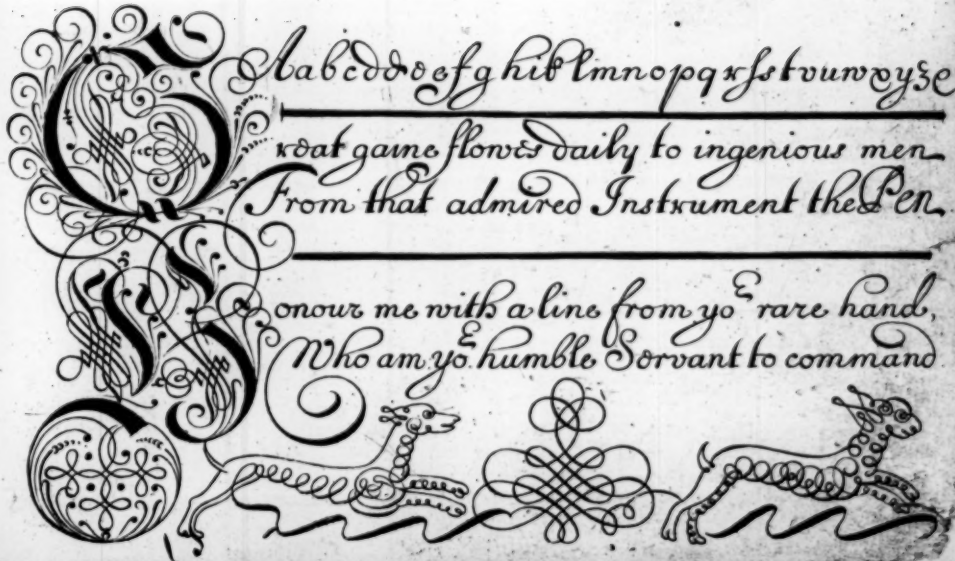
Demeane yor selfe prudently in all Companyes So will you be welcome wherefoever you come.

A a b c d e e f g g h i k l m n o p q r r s t t v u w x y z z

A a b c d d e e f f g h i k l m n o p
q q r r s s t v u w x y y z z &

Endeavour to imitate the Sun in the
Firmament by vnwearied constancy
in some commendable Imployment.

Follow not the amorous, for they are humorous
nor the humorous, for they are dangerous
But evermore accompany the virtuous.



Aabcdddefghiblmnopqrsstvuwxyze

Great gaine flowes daily to ingenious men
From that admired Instrument the Pen

Honour me with a line from yo^e rare hand,
Who am yo^e humble Servant to command

A B C D E F G H I K L M N
O P Q R S T V W X Y Z
Incomparable Writing beares the Bell,
From all the famous Arts that most excell
Keepe a choice Pen, free Inke, a Steddy hand,
And that's y way fair Writing to command

A a b c d d e e f f g h i k l m n o p q r s t v u w x y z
Learning procures preferment: & preferment
gaines money, and money commands all things.
Take much of every moment of yo Time
In Wisdomes Schoole this Lesson is the prime

A a b c d d e f f g h i k l m n o p p q r s s t v u w x y y z &

None to true Hono.^r or p^r form.^t mounts,
Without ye Arts of Writing & Accompts.

Occasion now her fore-lock doth present,
Embrace it, and yo.^w may prove Excellent.

A a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t v u w x y z &

Pleasures prove commonly Serpents wth Stings
Honours are Burthens and Riches have wings
But virtues wise Ofspring affect better things

Quietnesse and Contentment are the most
Soveraigne Ingredients in temporal Felicity

A a b c d d e f g g h h i k k l m n o p p q
r ſ s t ſ ſ t v v u w w x y y y z z & &

Reaſons illumination brings
True illuſtrations of ſuch things

Some are wiſe, and make a Recreation
of Buſineſſe: Some are otherwiſe, and
make a Buſineſſe of Recreation

a b c d e f g h i k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y
'Tis no small commendation to command y
A B C D E F G H I K L M
N O P Q R S T W V X Y Z
Virtue and practice walking hand in hand.
The noblest of Accomplishments command

13

Aabcdeffghiklmn

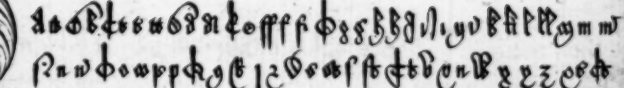
Writing is ye mindes interpret:

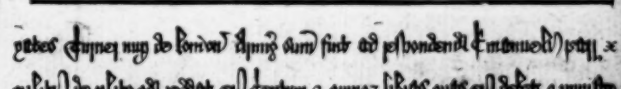
opqrrststſvuwvyzz

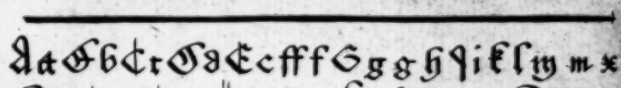
Xenophon commends heroick

and virtuous imploymen:ts

Court Hand.







zealously performed by E: Cotkey living in Guttey lane near Cheapside.

To the Reader.

MY *Honoured Friends, Mr.* Robert Pask, *and Mr.* Thomas Lacy, *being desirous to Accommodate young Practitioners in this Curious* Art, *with a* Book *of small Price, to their great Profit, prevail'd with me (who have always endeavoured to promote the* Publick Good) *to perform this necessary Work. So numerous, though various, are my Works Published in Order to the Advancement and Perfection of this curious* Art, *that I should think it time to Apologize for my self for doing so much; did not the Fountain of Experience produce new pleasing streams. But some may object and say, why would he Smut the Reputation of his larger Productions, by bringing up the Rear with so inconsiderable a Trifle? To this I answer, first, That I count it not less Honourable to Instruct and Improve the Means, than to be an Instrument of greater Perfection to the Highest. Secondly, Every one that has Six-pence to spare for the Incouragement of his Practise, is not Master of half a Crown: and yet even he that has but Six-pence may be inriched with a more Noble and Sublime Genius, than he that is Obliged to Friends or Fortune for the vast Possession of a Thousand Pounds.*

And were it not a thouſand pities that ſo rare an Engine ſhould ſtand motionleſs for want of a Six-penny Inſtrument to ſet it going? Thirdly, That Gallant Youth, whoſe lucky hand by imitation parallels the Copies in this Book, will be fit for any Pen-performance, from a Juſtice of the Peace his Clerk, to a Secretary of State.

Therefore, though ſmall this Book doth ſeem,
It may deſerve no ſmall eſteem.

Such hopeful Endeavourers may incourage their Scientifical Souls with ſuch Verſes as theſe, *viz.*

That Gallant Man, who all the reſt ſurmounts,
In thoſe rare Arts of Writing and Accompts;
Needs not intreat, but may command the Favour,
Of Dame Pecunia *when he pleaſe to have Her.*

But as for the unprofitable Sons of Sloath, they may behold the Portraicture of their hopeleſs Inclinations in the enſuing Lines.

Fain would I learn to Write, fain would I learn
Accompts, and what the Nobleſt Minds Concern;
But O, the powerful Charms of Idleneſs,
Do ſo my Limbs, do ſo my Mind oppreſs,
That I, contented, lay me down and cry,
This is too hard for me, and That too high.

May

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This is too hard for me, and That too high.

May

Have Learn'd already to Write ſomething Fair;
Improve by theſe Inventions, and Aſpire
To the Sublimity of their Deſire.

And may thoſe Younger Tyros, *whoſe ſmall Skill,*
Amounts ſcarce to the Guidance of the Quill;
May they Learn more and more, ſtill mend and mend,
Where Pains begin, there Gains will crown the end.

To make a Pen.

Since Curious Letters in a kind Diſtil,
From the rare Limbeck of a well-cut Quill;
Learn firſt to make this uſeful Inſtrument,
Excelling Pens produce things Excellent.

TAke the firſt, ſecond, or third Quills in the wing of a Gooſe or Raven (thoſe that are round, criſp and clean, are the beſt) when you have ſcraped off the thin Rine thereof, with the back-edge of your Pen-knife; hold it in your Left-hand with the feather end from you, then enter the Knife in the back thereof ſloping, and cut off as much in length as the Quill is in breadth, and anſwer that with another cut on the inſide, like, and oppoſite to the former; then turn the Quill, and enter the edge of your Pen-knife even in the back thereof, and exactly in the mid'ſt of the half Round, neither inclining the blade one way

that the Slit may not be made awry. Then put in the Peg of your Knife-haft, if it has one for that purpoſe, or the end of a whole Quill; and with a ſudden twitch, force up the Slit, holding your Left-hand Thumb hard upon the back of the Quill, to put a ſtop how far the ſlit ſhall go. This being done, enter your Knife ſloping in the other ſide above the Slit, about twice the breadth of the Quill, and cut away the Cradle-piece; then turn the back upward, and cut down to the end of the Slit, the Cheek or Shoulder-pieces, and in ſo doing, turn the Knife on both ſides towards the back. After this, place the inſide of the end or Nib of the Pen, upon the Nail of your Left-hand Thumb, holding the Quill faſt between the fore Finger and middle Finger of that Hand. Laſtly, to finiſh the Nib, enter the edge of your Knife on the back, and near the end thereof ſloping, and immediately turning the edge almoſt down-right, cut it off.

There are four Conſiderations in Relation to the Quill.

1. If the Quill be too hard, ſteep it a while in Water.
2. If it be too ſoft, harden it in warm Embers.
3. If it be too thick, pare a ſmall quantity from the back of the Nib.
4. If it be too thin and weak, ſtrengthen the Pen with a ſhort Slit, a ſhort Nib, and broad Shoulders.

Proportion the Pens Nib to every Hand,
And its rare Motions learn to underſtand.

How

HOld the Pen in your Right-hand, between your fore Finger, middle Finger and Thumb, with the Scoope downwards. Place your Thumb on the left-side higheſt, bowing outward in the Joynt. Extend your fore Finger almoſt ſtraight on the right ſide, near the top of the Pen, about a quarter of an Inch further than the end of your Thumb, and near half an Inch from the end of the Nib. Then place your middle Finger under the Pen on the right ſide, about a quarter of an Inch from the end of the Nib. Laſtly, place your third Finger over your little Finger drawn inward, and move your hand on the little Fingers end as on its Center, and let the Pen riſe up between the ſecond and third Joynt of your fore Finger. Now here accept of ſome no leſs material Obſervations in order to the Affair, *viz.* 1. Hold your Pen eaſily. 2. Move your hand lightly. 3. Turn your hand outward, or from you. 4. Draw your right Elbow as much toward your Body as conveniently as you can.

How to ſit to Write.

A Fore right Light, or that which comes on the Left-hand, is only fit to Write by. Place your Body fairly even before the Desk or Board on which you Write; whoſe beſt Poſition is to aſcend ſomewhat from you. Bear your Head above the ſame, at leaſt the diſtance of a Span, look ſtraight forward, neither turning it on one ſide nor other, lean not your Breaſt againſt the Desk whereon you Write. Stay the Paper with your Left-hand as you Write. Keep a Waſt Paper under your Hand whereon to try your Pen; and to pre-

into your Ink-Horn; but that will oblige you to view your Pens Nib often, for fear of Hairs.

So much for the beſt Poſture how to ſit,
The next concerns Accommodations fit.

A Pen-Knife, Razor-Mettle, Quills good ſtore,
Gum-Sandrick *Powder to pounce Paper o're;*
Ink ſhining black, Paper more white than Snow,
Round and Square Rulers on your ſelf beſtow;
Small Compaſſes to Rule your double Lines,
Wax, Sand, and Black-Lead Pens for your Deſigns:
Theſe with a willing Mind and ready Hand,
Will make this Art *your Servant at Command.*

How to Write well.

EVery thing being prepar'd according to the former Directions, your Paper being Rul'd with double Lines according to the depth of the Letters which you intend to Write, either with a Black-Lead Pen, your Compaſſes, or the end of an old Pen cut Forked. Then begin your imitation with the breaks of the Letters, proceeding gradually from part to part till you can frame and proportion every Letter exactly. This Task I

the

the rather Impoſe upon the Learner, as knowing it to be the ſureſt Foundation that can be laid in order to the attainment of this Curious *Art*. Though it may ſeem ſtrange that only the Breaks of the ſharp mixt Secretary ſhould conduce to the well Writing of the *A-la-mode* Round-Hands, yet to an ingenious diligent Practitioner it will not prove ſo ſtrange as true. For I have found by Experience in Teaching, that the Learners Hand being a while Habituated to this form of Character, that any other hath been eaſily attainable. The minums, *viz.* the Strokes of the *i*, *n*, *m*, *u*, *w*, &c. being the ſame in all. And the Stemms, as thoſe of the *b*, *f*, *h*, *k*, *l*, and are the ſame, allowing ſome ſmall Variations conſidering the nature of the Hand which you Write. The Compaſs Letters in this will lead to the Writing of thoſe in any other Hand, with conſideration, whether thoſe other Hands depend more or leſs upon the Form of a Circle or Oval.

An Alphabet compoſed Right,
For Learners Profit and Delight.

At firſt the Breaks make rarely well, and then
To the whole Alphabet addreſs your Pen.
Be Maſter of one Letter firſt, before
Your vain Ambition leads you on to more.
Clear Writing is the product of much care,
Practice will make you Write both faſt and fair.

Draw with the Pens left corner every Line,
That muſt in reaſon like to Hairs be fine;
Every full ſtroke the Pens full mouth doth crave,
And they than Hair ſtrokes heavier poize muſt have
From word to word the ſpace of m *retain,*
That will your Writing render fair and plain.

Go not from Hand to Hand, till Industry
Presents you with the Palm of Victory.
Hold in your right Arm, that hand outward bend,
Raise your Thumbs joynt, two Fingers straight
extend.
If you would be the first in Writings Race,
Proportions mind, with every Space and Grace.
Keep from extravagancy Heads and Tails;
Art thrives most where Instruction most prevails.
Let every Letter, as in Duty bound,
Be with his Leaders true position crown'd.
Make all your strokes true to their forms, & find
Those Graces which most please the eye and mind.
No Blots nor Blurs, nor strokes of such a Race,
Must once appear, your Writing to Disgrace.
Ovals Illustrate Italian Letters,
And Secretary Hand are Circles Debtors.
Proportion whites, or Compass Letters small,
With like Diameters, in one piece all.

Quaint Strokes and rare Eye, charming Letters
From a Pen mov'd with sweet Celerity. (fly
Raise from the Desk your hand a Span, and bear
Lightly your hand, swift motion makes strokes
clear. (lye.
Shades against shades, lights against lights must
Free from all harshness that offends the Eye.
Turn not your Head nor Body, your Book place
Before you even, & Write with Clerk-like Grace,
View well the (a) the (i) and the small (o)
All other Letters from those Fountains flow.
Where Circles are concern'd, make Rounds, and
where (appear.
Ovals should shine, let Egg-form'd Strokes
X. Things, Pen, Paper, Ink, Knife, Horn provide,
Desk, Pounce, Slate, Rule, Compass, & Skill beside.
Your Elbow mount above your hand, and then
Let swift command of hand commend your Pen.
Zealous Affection, back'd with good Direction,
Convey the Learner safe to Perfection.

Aabcdefffghijklmnop
qrrsstuvwxyz.

ABCDEFGHI
KLMNOPQR
STUVWXYZ.

Aabcdefffghijklllmnopp
qrrsostttuvwxxyzz.

ABCDEFFGHIJK
LMNOPPQRSST
VVWXXYZZ.

BRITISH
8 NO 71
USEUM

abcdefghijklmnopqrrsstuvwxyz.

ABCDEFGHIKLMNO
PQRSTUWXYZ.

I John Davis his Book
Got it October the
14th 1757

[illegible] Timothy Dunn of the City of [illegible]
City Brewer of a Plea that he may render to him the Sum
unjustly [illegible] Joseph [illegible] whereupon the said Jo
[illegible] Timothy Dunn [illegible] the day of Apri
[illegible] said in the [illegible] of Saint [illegible]
[illegible] the Jurisdiction of this Court by his
[illegible] shewn the date whereof is the same
[illegible] in the Sum of Twenty one pounds
the first day of June next ensuing the date of the said [illegible]
did bind himself his Heirs Ecors & Admors in the said [illegible]
Joseph Fay avers that the said Timothy Dunn did no
upon the said first day of June next ensuing the date o
Day which means this action accrues that the said Jos
said Sum of Forty two pounds ten Sh. Mt. Sterling yet
the said Joseph Fay [illegible] said Sum of Forty two poun
[illegible] the same to the Damage of the said Joseph Fay